



The Eagle

The Monthly Newsletter of the Federal Community

The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota

July - August 1998



<http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>

Volume IV Number VIII



Federal Awards Day



Wednesday -- September 30

This year's Hammer Awards presentation and Federal Women's Program Awards are, for the first time, combined into one event and held on Wednesday, September 30, 1998 at 11:30 A.M. at the Decathlon Club, 1700 E 79th Street, Minneapolis (located adjacent to I-494 in the Bloomington area). This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Osterholm, State of Minnesota Epidemiologist and leading international expert on the subject of Biological Terrorism.

The Hammer Award is Vice President Al Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR) special honor awarded to teams of Federal employees and their partners who have made extraordinary progress in reinventing government. Winners receive a Hammer Plaque with a card signed by the Vice President. Each team member also receives a hammer lapel pin and a certificate from Vice President Gore.

The Federal Women's program will also present their annual awards to employees and agencies who champion the cause of women in the Federal workplace.

More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks via fax to all agency heads or call the FEB Office at (612) 713-7200.



Medical Response to Biological Warfare and Terrorism

A Live Satellite Broadcast on September 22, 23, 24, 1998

The Emergency Preparedness Council of the Federal Executive Board is sponsoring a live satellite broadcast on the Medical Response to Biological Warfare and Terrorism from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The target audience are the following: all military physicians, physician assistants, and nurses who will be involved in any type of patient care; public health practitioners who are involved in disease surveillance and prevention; civilian medical care providers who would be called upon to assist in managing casualties from a biological attack; enlisted medical personnel, to include medics, corpsmen, and preventive medicine technicians who are interested in learning more about this subject. The presentation will be held from 1:30 to 5:30 P.M. on each day at the Bishop Henry Whipple Building, Room 570 and Suite 510 at the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Fort Snelling. Additional viewing areas may be added. For more information call the FEB at (612) 713-7200.

What's In This Issue

PAGE 1

- FEB Federal Awards Day
- Biological Warfare & Terrorism

PAGE 2

- Linda Daninger, Mpls VA Medical Center - Outstanding Federal Employee of the Month
- Website of the Month - **MSNBC.COM**

PAGE 3

- CFC Golf Tournament
- Federal Employee Night at the Twins

PAGE 4

- **Focus On: The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota**

PAGE 5

- **OPM News: Participation in Volunteer Activities**
- Federal Gov't Training Track
- What's New on the OPM Website

PAGE 6

- The Training Home Page - FY99 Training Courses Announced
- FERS Open Season Video Offer
- FACETS 98 (Diversity Day) is coming!

PAGE 7

- FEB Monthly Calendar - September

**For General
Distribution To All Federal
Employees In Your Office**



"The Best In The Business"

Federal Executive Board of Minnesota

Federal Employee of the Month

Linda Daninger, RNCS

Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center



Linda Daninger is the Administrative Assistant to the ACOS/Ambulatory Care unit at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Ms. Daninger is active in church and professional activities in her community. She is a member of her church's choir and sings every Sunday. She was active for many years with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, serving in various roles. This year she is the President of the chapter, setting goals and direction for the organization. One of her goals is to increase the representation of culturally diverse groups on her American Cancer Society Board and in its programs. She spends countless volunteer hours making presentations to groups throughout the metropolitan area and greater Minnesota on Breast Cancer and other cancer awareness. In addition, Ms. Daninger serves on both the Cancer Committee and the Women Veterans Advisory Committee at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. She is a mentor for nurses and other Minneapolis VA Medical Center employees and is a member of Toastmasters International.

This nomination was submitted by Sharon Skoblik of the directors office at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Website of the Month



As the only news organization to embrace three media technologies — broadcast, cable and the Internet — MSNBC brings you up-to-the-minute news from around the globe.

Watch breaking stories on NBC, CNBC Cable and MSNBC Cable — our 24-hour cable news network. Then, log on to MSNBC.com for full news coverage of the day's events, updates on breaking stories and in-depth reports on topics like the death of Princess Diana and the Unabomber trial — many in full multimedia, with audio and video reports from NBC News and MSNBC reporters. And while you're online, you can see an up-to-the-minute TV schedule describing our upcoming programs.

NBC News correspondents from Chicago to Tokyo, Los Angeles to London offer analysis and fresh perspectives on events in this quickly changing world. MSNBC also provides great sports coverage, business news and the latest weather and traffic reports — right down to your own city. And of course, we cover the latest news in science and technology, lifestyles and entertainment.

One of the most exciting features of MSNBC is its interactive nature. While online with MSNBC, you can:

Design your own personal front page to display only headlines and information that interest you — including current stock quotes and sports scores.

Select the MSNBC local station in your town and read your own local news.

You can join other readers in a chat session for a timely discussion.



The Electronic Eagle

Do you want to save fax paper? Do you have Email that can receive messages via the Internet? If so, then you could receive **The Electronic Eagle** in Full Color. You can also forward it to your staff to keep them informed of the different activities within the Federal community. It could also be printed for distribution, in color if you have the right equipment.

Now for the technical stuff! You need to have Adobe Acrobat reader on each computer where you send it. The good news is that the Acrobat reader is absolutely free and can be downloaded from the Internet at <http://www.adobe/acrobat>. Need more information, call us at (612) 713-7200. The Electronic Eagle is also posted monthly on our FEB Internet Site, <http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>.





Website of the Month



Online, MSNBC is the home for all NBC news programs, not just cable. So you can expect more collaborative specials like "Lie, Cheat and Steal," plus stories we do together with "Today," "Dateline" and "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw."

MSNBC Personalization

With the following free MSNBC personalization tools, you can receive the news in ways that meet your individual needs including a personalized on-line newfront, a news alert that flashes on your Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser when you are on-line with the internet or even a daily emailed copy. One of the big differences with MSNBC is the local news reporting that comes in with your personalized electronic "newspaper."

Selecting your local news

MSNBC Affiliates in many locations can now bring you the latest news for your geographical area including Minneapolis/St. Paul. Some affiliate channels are participating now, and more are coming online soon. Be sure to check the local news often to see the latest sites.



Combined Federal Campaign

3rd Annual Golf Tournament Set for Tuesday, September 8, 1998

**Shotgun start at 11:30 A.M.
Registration begins at 10:00 A.M. Sharp!**

**Southern Hills Golf Course
18950 Chippendale Ave. (MN Hwy 3)
Farmington, MD 55024**

- Price \$45.00 - Entry Fee includes:
 - Greens Fee (18 holes)
 - Dinner - Burger & Brat meal, potato salad, etc.
 - Prizes for Low Team Score
 - Flag Prizes
 - Pot of Gold

Entries will be accepted from Federal Employees/Retirees and U.S. Postal Service Employees/Retirees until August 20th, 1998 or 144 paid entries - whichever is first. Get your registrations in early! The public is invited to submit entries after August 20th for any remaining slots. (Note to Federal Employees: REMEMBER, YOU MUST TAKE ANNUAL LEAVE FOR THIS EVENT). Call the FEB office (612) 713-7200 for an entry form.

One was already forwarded to each agency head/key postal official.



Federal Employee Days at the Minnesota Twins



The Federal Executive Board has one more date, August 19th, with the league leading N.Y. Yankees for Federal Employees at a Minnesota Twins Game in Minneapolis.

The Twins will sell their lower level reserved tickets (normally \$13 each) to Federal Employees and their families for \$9 each. **Mail order only. Call the FEB for an order form.** Mark your calendars -- the game time is listed below.
Wednesday, August 19th - Twins v.s. New York Yankees at 7:05 P.M.



Focus On: The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota



Ed Daum
Chair of FEB
Small Business Admin.

History

The Federal Executive Boards (FEBs) were established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy to improve coordination among Federal activities and programs outside of Washington, D.C. A total of twenty-eight Federal Executive Boards exist throughout the country in two states and twenty-six major cities.

The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota was first created as the FEB of the Twin Cities in 1963 and recently grew to a statewide presence throughout all of Minnesota in 1998.



Mission

The twenty-eight Federal Executive Boards serve as regional hubs for all governmental activity and their work relates to five national mission themes which are:

1. Communicate: FEBs provide a forum for member organizations to share each other's initiatives, successes, concerns and challenges. FEBs inform the local community of national policies and priorities.

2. Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness: FEBs bring together organizations with common goals by pooling experience and resources so that their efforts are complementary and more cost effective.

3. Facilitate Customer Service: FEBs draw together organizations with common clients so that government services are convenient for the customers.

4. Partner with Community Groups: FEBs partner with community groups to identify needs/issues and provide assistance.

5. Coordinate Emergency Preparedness Planning: FEBs coordinate and maintain a program for general emergency preparedness planning and response among member organizations.

FEB Activities and Councils

Activities

- Combined Federal Campaign of the Twin Cities Metro Area
- Affiliated with the Twin Cities Cooperative Administrative Support Program (CASU)
- Member of the Executive Council of Partnership Minnesota - an Intergovernmental networking council of Federal, State, and Local Government officials
- Sponsor Interagency Awards Programs
- Blood Drives
- Child Care Issues in the Federal Community
- Community Activities: e.g. Paint-A-Thon, Santa Anonymous

Councils

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Diversity Program
- Emergency Preparedness
- Fed. Women's Program
- Interagency Training
- Public Affairs
- Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Committee



Ray Morris
Executive Director

Funding Agency Department of The Interior



The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota is staffed and funded by the Dept. of the Interior - Office of the Secretary Interior Service Center, Washington, D.C.



Would you like to have your Agency profiled in the next Focus section?
Our next deadline for the Eagle is August 24th.

Please submit your materials including photographs and graphics to the FEB Office.
Preferably on diskette in either WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format or
Email articles to our FEB_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov



OPM NEWS RELEASE

<http://www.opm.gov/>



Participation of Federal Employees in Volunteer Activities

President Clinton has signed a memorandum for heads of departments and agencies requesting that you reexamine the ways in which the Federal Government can support its employees' commitment to community service and ensure that all employees are aware of the various flexibilities available to them to participate in volunteer activities.

The President has directed Federal departments and agencies to review their work scheduling practices and to make maximum use of existing flexibilities, when possible, to allow Federal employees to plan and take time off to perform community service. Each department and agency should review the extent to which alternative work schedules are authorized and encouraged to allow Federal employees to participate in volunteer activities. Likewise, each department and agency is directed to review its policies and practices for granting employees annual leave, leave without pay, credit hours under flexible work schedules, and compensatory time off, where appropriate, to perform community service.

The President's memorandum directs each department and agency to report to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) within 90 days on the steps that have been taken to grant Federal employees time off to perform community service. Attachment 2 provides guidance on the flexibilities that may be used for granting Federal employees time off to participate in volunteer activities. Check with your agency for the status of the agencies volunteer activities program.

By direct involvement in community activities, the President believes Federal employees can become an invaluable resource in the effort to make our country a better place to live.

For more information see the OPM website <http://www.opm.gov> or call the FEB Office at (612) 713-7200.

Federal Government Training Track

OPM will sponsor a Federal Government Training Track at the 1998 Interactive Multimedia — Summer Conference on August 24-28, 1998, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA.

The Federal track will showcase the various technological achievements of Federal agencies in the area of instructional technology, including WEB-based, CD-ROM, virtual reality and electronic performance support applications. The track is designed for individuals who deal with the application of learning technologies, including human resource development and information technology professionals.

The track will include a hands-on workshop entitled, "Web Basics for the Federal Human Resource Community" and a comprehensive workshop entitled, "Implementing Performance Support in the Federal Government."

There will also be presentations from the Departments of the Air Force, Defense, and Navy, and Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy.

For registration details and more information about the conference email OPM at training@opm.gov

From the OPM Website "What's New Section"

The qualifying fields of study for [GS 1102-13 Contracting](#) and above positions have been expanded to include the same educational fields of study required for positions at GS-12 and below.

Two new Benefits Administration Letters (BAL) are now available:

- Benefits Administration Letter 98-408 provides introductory information about the 1998 FEHB Open Season.
- Benefits Administration Letter 98-409 provides ordering and distribution information for the FEHB Open Season materials

The [Combined Federal Campaign \(CFC\)](#) web pages have been updated, including announcements of interest to participating organizations and Federal agencies.

Please Distribute To All Employees, for more copies call (612) 725-3687

The Eagle is published by the Federal Executive Board staff. We encourage any comments, suggestions or articles. Please submit information by FAX (612) 713-7203 or Email: FEB_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov
We prefer E-mailed material. The next deadline is August 24th.

Editor/designer: Ray Morris, Executive Director
Co-Editor: Margaret Geisler, Staff Assistant



The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota
is funded by the Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary



The FEB Interagency Training Home Page

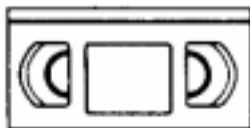
Please Forward This Segment To Your Local Agency
Training Officer/Office and All Employees



Upcoming Training Schedule Of The FEB Interagency Training Council

August 18-20, 1998	Advanced Facilitation
August 17, 1998	FERS Open Season Employee Briefing
September 21, 1998	FERS Open Season Employee Briefing
September 23, 1998	FERS Open Season Employee Briefing
September 29, 1998	Creative Problem-Solving
September 29, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar
October 6, 1998	Pre-Retirement Seminar
October 27, 1998	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
November 5, 1998	Finding the Value for Customers
November 16, 1998	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
January 12, 1999	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
February 9, 1999	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
April 27, 1999	Pre-Retirement Seminar
April 29, 1999	Mid-Career Financial Planning Seminar
May 11, 1999	Cultivating Your Benefits Seminar
June 29, 1999	Pre-Retirement Seminar

8/98



FERS Open Season Video Is Now Available from the Federal Executive Board and Twin Cities

Cooperative Administrative Support Unit (CASU)

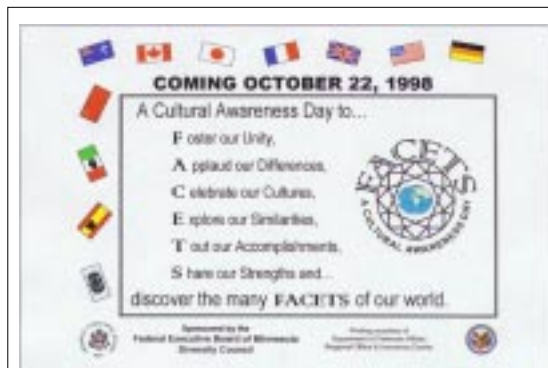
The Federal Executive Board of Minnesota has produced a videotape that explains the key features and differences between the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement Systems (FERS).

This videotape is believed to be the first tape produced by a Federal Government agency to explain the differences between the two retirement plans for the open season taking place July 1 - December 31, 1998, according to Tom Haley, U.S.D.A., Food Safety and Inspection Service Benefits Officer, Minneapolis.

"We wanted the help the CSRS and CSRS-offset employees better understand the financial impact of the Thrift Savings Plans contributions, and the key features of CSRS and FERS that impact the decision to switch," said Haley. "We also want them to understand, through the video, the importance of age, number of years to retirement, and ability to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan in making the right choice."

The videotape is a cooperative venture between the and the Cooperative Administrative Support Program, or CASU, and the Interagency Training Council of the Federal Executive Board, said Tim Leonard, CASU Chair. "The affordable price of the videotape and the length of the open season should allow employees the opportunity to view the tape at home and make this important decision in the privacy of their homes with their family," Leonard added.

The two-hour, tape sets with accompanying handout materials can be ordered @ \$24.00. The IMPAC credit card can be used for purchasing the tape. For more information or to order the tape see the FEB Internet site: <http://www.doi.gov/febtc/> or contact the FEB by E-mail: FEB_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov or by phone at (612) 713-7200.



Cultural Awareness Day October 22, 1998

One day training day for all Federal employees, hosted by the "new" FEB Diversity Council at the Mpls. North Hilton

General Session & Breakouts

- Advancement skills for the Federal workplace
- Cultural Awareness within the diverse Federal workplace

Speakers and Instructors From

- Local Federal agencies
- Top Speakers from the region

Includes Separate Afternoon Specialized Training Sessions For:

- Special Emphasis Program Mgrs.
- Federal Woman's Program Mgrs.

**More information call Deb Stephens,
VA Regional Office & Insurance Center
(612) 725-3101.**





FEB Monthly Calendar - September 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Cultural Day at the Mpls VA Medical Center - for info call Petra Hartness at (612) 725-2000 x 2180 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity Programs Council 8:30 A.M. at FEB • Partnership MN MN/Dept of Revenue @ 8:00 A.M. 		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEB Policy Board Meeting at 7:30 A.M. (location to be announced) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITC at BHW 510 @ 7:30 • FWP Policy in Room 570 Whipple 		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SADBOC at 8:30 A.M. FEB Office • SGMP 11:30 A.M. 		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Course:</i> FERS Open Season Employee Briefing BHW Room 570 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEB Public Affairs Council Meeting 7:30 A.M. • Satellite Downlink on Bioterrorism 1:30 to 5:30 P.M. BHW Room 570 • <i>Course:</i> FERS Open Season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satellite Downlink on Bioterrorism 1:30 to 5:30 P.M. BHW Room 570 • <i>Course:</i> FERS Open Season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davis-Bacon Act/Prevailing Wage Interagency Meeting BHW 510 • Satellite Downlink on Bioterrorism 1:30 to 5:30 P.M. 		
27	28	29	30			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Course:</i> Pre-Retirement Seminar BHW Room 570 • <i>Course:</i> Creative Problem Solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEB Hammer & Federal Woman's Program Awards Luncheon 11:30 P.M. at Decathlon Club 			

Key To Abbreviations/Acronyms

FEB - Federal Executive Board
CASU - Cooperative Administrative Support Unit
ITC - Interagency Training Council of the FEB

SGMP - Society of Government Meeting Professionals
SADBOC - Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Council
FWP - Federal Woman's Program
LFCC - Local Federal Coordinating Committee of the CFC

The FEB Office is located in Suite 510 in the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building in Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Telephone number (612) 713-7200

Facsimile number (612) 725-3835

Email address FEB_Minnesota@ios.doi.gov

Internet Website <http://www.doi.gov/febtc/>